

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/613,005

Examiner

George R. Koch III

Applicant(s)

ONOSHIRO ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 7/7/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 7-17 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With regard to claims 7-14, the prior art, such as Sakai, does disclose ACF bonding structures (Figure 2) with bonding rollers (item 14). Furthermore, splicing structures for performing the replacing and switching are known. However, applicant's new claims make it clear that the bonding means and tape handover means dramatically differ from the traditional splicing of the art as demonstrated by Hinton which discloses switchovers utilizing bonding of the ends of the tapes prior to downstream operation, Cairns which discloses multi-reel stands, and US Patent 5,064,488 to Dickey which also discloses many of the concepts of Hinton; in other words, all of lines 1-13 of claim 7 are known in the art, as well as the bonding roller and peeler roller cited in line 17 (from Sakai: items 14 and 12, respectively). Applicant also claims in claim 7 that the bonding means include a drawing chuck member adapted to grip a leading end portion of the ACF tape reeled out from the reel stand. This drawing chuck member could similar to the new web holders of Dickey (such as item 28 in Figure 1).

However, applicant claims a tape handover means which are adapted to pick up the leading end portion of the ACF tape from the tape end holder member and to hand the same over to the drawing chuck member after passing ACF tape through a path under the bonding roller and over the peeler roller. The prior art does not disclose this

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element in the context of the above limitations, nor suggest any motivation for including such elements in the apparatus. The prior art merely discloses holding the fresh web and bonding it to the expiring web prior to the further operations, and does suggest a chuck member passing the web under the downstream bonding operation and above the peeling roller.

Similarly, as to claims 15-17, which method limitations that parallel the apparatus structure, the disclosures of Sakai, Hinton, Cairns and Dickey suggest the bonding operation (Sakai, Figure 2), the reel switchover operations (the movement of the reels in Cairns, for example), the withdrawing operation (similar to preparing a fresh end in Cairn, Hinton, and Dickey), the setting of the fresh supply reel (Cairns) and the turning of the reel stand (Cairns again). However, the prior art, for the reasons explained above, do not suggest the method step of handing the leading end portion of the ACF tape on the tape end under the bonding roller and over the peeling roller.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Koch III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1230 (TDD only). If the applicant cannot make a direct TDD-to-TDD call, the applicant can communicate by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-866-377-8642 and

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giving the operator the above TDD number. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10-7.

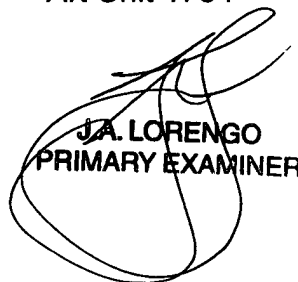
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George R. Koch III
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1734

GRK
2/5/2005



J.A. LORENZO
PRIMARY EXAMINER